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THE EMU, AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL BIRD

(See Bulletin No. 1)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Australia: "Never-Never" Land

AMERICANS, accustomed to think of the United States as a young nation, often forget that many others are even younger.

The youthfulness of Australia in the ranks of civilized countries is brought out by the current celebration in Perth of western Australia's centennial.

Although the first Australian penal colony of Englishmen was established in 1788, the island-continent did not begin to attract colonists until fifty years later. Even then white colonists were few and far between until the discovery of gold brought a rush.

Trees That Shed Their Bark Instead of Their Leaves

Although a "white" continent, peopled with English-speaking inhabitants and having every luxury and convenience of modern civilization, Australia is still the "Never-Never" land, the lonely continent and the home of the weirdest of the earth's living flora and fauna. It is a land of extremes, of great deserts and dense forests, huge ranches and garden plots, of ferns as big as trees, and trees that shed their bark instead of their leaves.

Out in the "back blocks," as the open country beyond civilization is known, is the kookooburra bird, the famous "laughing jackass," whose taunting cry drives the lonely bushmen insane. The emu, Australia's national bird, looks a trifle self-conscious since the late cross-word puzzle craze. The emu is a sort of ostrich, but its feathers resemble hair more than plumes. While the bird has a good disposition, it has been known to kick sidewise or backward with enough force to break a man's leg.

Sydney, on the east coast, is the metropolis of Australia. It is Americanized, with its skyscrapers, its regular, well-paved streets and its abundance of American-made automobiles. Sydney has one of the finest harbors in the world. Experienced travelers compare it, for scenic beauty and extent, with Naples, Rio de Janeiro and Constantinople. Originally a dumping place of convicts from England, the city has grown and prospered until it is now, with a population of 905,000, the sixth city in size in the entire British Empire.

Queensland Called the "Banana State"

Also on the west coast is Brisbane, which lies not far south of the Great Barrier Reef, a chain of coral as long as from Chicago to New Orleans. Brisbane is another city that has experienced mushroom growth. Fifty years ago it was a village of wooden huts. To-day, with 210,000 people, it is the fourth city of the Commonwealth, and the capital of the progressive State of Queensland, Australia's "sugar bowl."

The city proper is cut in two by the picturesque Brisbane River, which is wide and deep enough to be navigated by ocean vessels. The famous song about a banana shortage was certainly not written of Queensland, which has such a large export of the tropical fruit that it is sometimes referred to as the "Banana State."

Melbourne, capital of the State of Victoria, was the seat of government of the Commonwealth until Canberra, the new, tailor-made capital, was occupied. Melbourne, like San Francisco (which began its modern development about the same time), owes its rapid growth largely to the discovery of gold in the near-by hills and the subsequent boom. Like San Francisco, it soon passed the boom stage

© *Photograph courtesy Royal Canadian Air Force*

WINNIPEG, THE GRAIN MARKET OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Due to its "bottle-neck" position on the eastern confines of Canada's 800-mile-long prairie farm, Winnipeg has become the Chicago of the Dominion, the gateway for the golden flood which pours from the fertile provinces of the West to the wheat ports of the East. The Parliament Buildings (center) stand in the heart of the city, on the banks of the Assiniboine (See Bulletin No. 3).

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Madrid Builds Europe's First Skyscraper Office

THE new telephone building opened in Madrid rises 288 feet high. It is said to be the highest structure for office purposes to be found in all Europe.

Construction of a skyscraper in the Spanish capital is a logical development. It marks a step in the swift progress of Madrid and, indeed, all Spain, toward modern industrial life. This nation, which has declined from the dominant colonial position it held in the days of Columbus and Cortez, has shown itself to be as hospitable to American methods as any country of Europe.

Nowhere is the trend more plain than in Madrid, where American automobiles whiz along the boulevards, American typewriters clatter in the offices and American cash registers ring up sales of American razor blades, vacuum cleaners, soft collars and patent pencils.

Capital is Young As Spanish Cities Go

Toledo, Granada and Seville and other Spanish cities, with their narrow, tortuous streets, hemmed in by blank walls of residences facing enclosed gardens, appear as if they were in another world when compared with the modern capital with its wide tree-lined boulevards, and spacious parks and public squares.

Madrid's oldest pages of history are newer than those of its Spanish neighbors. Philip II chose it as the Spanish capital in 1560. The King was faced with the problem of picking a site that would satisfy the various races of Spain. Saragossa was Aragonese, Burgos was Castilian, Toledo was Visigothic and Cordova and Seville were Moorish. He chose Madrid, which is situated in the midst of all of these. From a city of about 30,000 inhabitants it has steadily grown. It is larger than Cleveland, Ohio.

Travelers to Madrid question Philip's choice of a site, however. The surrounding country is not picturesque. Bleak, wind-swept, treeless hills surround it. Only now and then one sees a patch of grain attempting to withstand a severe climate. In midsummer the populace simmers under the heat of the sun which sometimes causes the thermometer to soar to 110 degrees, while in midwinter it is one of the coldest cities in Europe. Often during the summer months travelers are forced by the peculiar climate to change their clothing from light linens to heavy woolens when chill winds suddenly change tropical heat to frigid cold. Tourists from the warm climate of southern Spain are surprised to learn that ice skating is one of the favorite Madrid sports.

People Throng the Grounds of the King's Palace

Nevertheless the capital's climate is reputed to be healthy, due perhaps to the fact that the inhabitants have learned to adjust themselves to its peculiarities. It is the uninformed traveler who suffers most.

Madrid's "center of everything" is the Puerta del Sol, a large public square in the center of the city. It is a sort of hub for a dozen streets which, like spokes of a wheel, lead in all directions through the city. Here it is that seller meets buyer, beau meets belle, the loafers loaf, the street venders ply their trade, and the beggars beg. Mingling with the city folk are stocky Basques from the Pyrenees country, ruddy-skinned gypsies from the south and olive complexioned individuals from other portions of Spain as well as Frenchmen, Englishmen, Italians, and a few representatives of all other European countries. Now and then one also recognizes a group of Americans making their way through the slow-moving mass of humanity.

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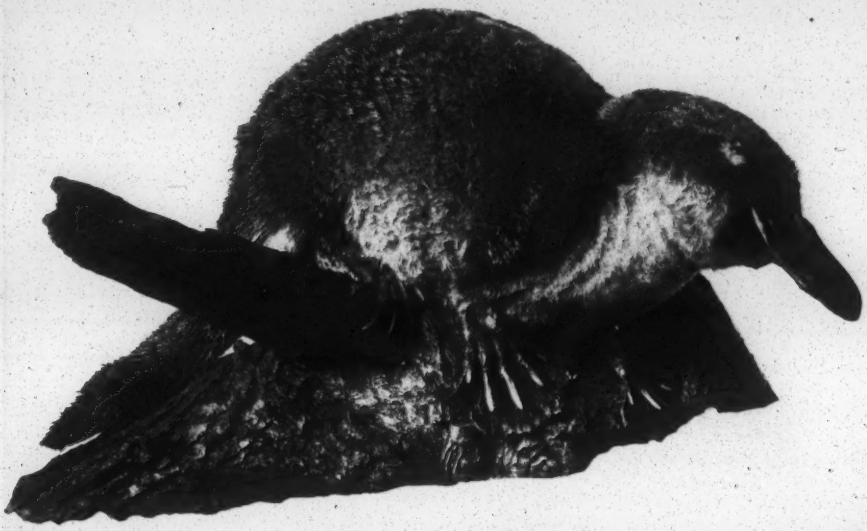
and became a permanent city, to be pridefully referred to to-day as "Marvelous Melbourne." It is built on generous lines, is slumless, and rich in beautiful parks and broad tree-lined streets and avenues. Attractive residential suburbs, connected with paved boulevards, sweep along the edge of the bay for 15 miles from the business center, while other homes cluster about the city in every direction. The servant problem, due to the democracy and wealth diffusion so characteristic of the entire continent, has brought into prominence another American institution, the "flat" or apartment house.

Where East is East and West is West

The Great Desert of Australia divides the continent into two parts, isolating the people of western Australia as completely as if they were on another island. Except for the telegraph, there has been no land communication between the populous east and the sparse west until the recent completion of the transcontinental railroad and the even more recent air service. The boat journey from Sydney to Perth requires more time than that from Sydney to New Zealand, which uses up five days.

West Australia was the last of the States to feel the push of mining discoveries, but the impulse came with unusual force. The growth, development, prosperity, legislation, and social character of this State are but the reflections of its gold mines. In 1880 the total population of an area nearly one-third as large as the United States was 29,000, distributed along the coast and engaged in agricultural and pastoral pursuits. But the sensational discoveries at Coolgardie (1892), followed by the almost unparalleled finds a few miles farther on, at Kalgoorlie, within three years doubled the population of the State, and during the years since Hannan made his memorable discovery, a population of 48,000 has become 332,000.

Bulletin No. 1, February 25, 1929.



© Photograph of specimen in U. S. National Museum

WHAT A QUEER THING IS THE PLATYPUS!

It lays eggs like a turtle and suckles its young. It has web feet, a tail like a beaver and a bill like a duck, yet it has teeth with which to chew its food. Although the platypus has no external ear, its hearing is most acute.

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Winnipeg's Helping Hand to Wales

DOES Winnipeg hold out a helping hand to starving Wales?

The visit of the Prince of Wales to the dreary villages in the Welsh coal mining country recalls what Winnipeg has done for the jobless miners and probably stands ready to do again.

The cycle of industry turning from coal to oil has left hundreds of thousands of miners without tasks in England—especially in Wales. By an agreement between England and Canada miners were offered transportation to the western wheat fields at harvest time. Nearly all of a large contingent went to Winnipeg and then out to the farms. After the harvest the majority remained to become Canadians, while the rest, wedded to their mining shafts, collected in Winnipeg for the return trip.

Center of Red River Rebellion

Winnipeg is the distributing point for immigrants to the great plains, and is the largest wheat market in the British Empire. Her population, falling little short of 200,000, is an outcome of sixty years' growth.

The thriving capital of Manitoba Province is known as the most American city across the Canadian line. It has prospered because of a naturally advantageous situation as a meeting ground between the new wheat and cattle country of the West and the older settled provinces of the East. The city lies some sixty miles from the boundary where the long reaches of the Assiniboine join the waters of the Red River.

Winnipeg's history began as Fort Gary back in the fur-trading days of the Hudson's Bay Company, when the fort was one of the last outposts of civilization. A fiercely independent population of half breeds or Métis grew up around the trading station. With the present Winnipeg as a center and Louis Riel as a leader, they staged the famous Red River rebellion against the approach of the Dominion government. In 1870 this uprising was crushed by Colonel Wolseley and his famous regiment. A way was thus paved for civilization and the Canadian Pacific Railroad. The latter's yards at Winnipeg are now said to be among the largest in the world.

Many Peoples Pass Through Winnipeg to Prairies

Immigrants from almost every known country pour daily into the great train shed of this transcontinental railway. They spend some time in Winnipeg as a sort of headquarters and then spread out over the plains. Ten journals in the Icelandic tongue alone are published in and about Winnipeg. There are Mennonite and Russian Doukhobor settlements in Manitoba. Demands for settlers on the frontier and for laborers on the great wheat ranches of the older valleys seem inexhaustible.

The city of Winnipeg itself, built upon the level prairie, is noted more for efficiency, cleanliness and hustle than for municipal beauty. Its architecture is square and plain, like the newer American cities, but it boasts many beautiful residential "crescents" and "places." On older streets the gingerbread architecture of the early nineties with an oversupply of mansard roofs strikes the visitor's attention. However, the newer mansions of the well-to-do classes equal any residential districts of a city of similar size in "the States."

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One of the Puerta del Sol "spokes" leads to the $15,000,000 royal palace, one of the principal "show places" of the Spanish capital. It is an imposing structure of granite. The spacious yards surrounding it are usually thronged with men and women sauntering on the walks, leaning against the palace wall or sitting on the royal steps. As in the Puerta del Sol, the venders and newsboys are heard above the din of chatter, and the ever-present beggar makes life miserable for the stranger. Boys and girls playing games remind one of the south lawn of the White House on Easter Monday, when the gates of the President's "back yard" are thrown open for youthful egg rollers.

In the public squares and along the boulevards American automobiles vie with foreign makes and even the Spanish-made cars of which the Spaniards are extremely proud. One can hail anything from an ancient flivver to America's largest automobile in which to make a tour of the city.

Bulletin No. 2, February 25, 1929.

© *Photograph from Harry A. McBride*

THE OLD HELPS THE NEW IN SPAIN

The influence of modernism to be seen in Madrid is also apparent throughout Spain. Scenes like this will be things of the past when the highway program is complete. An American company has a part in the construction of a motor highway north and south of Madrid.

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Pudukkottai Has a New Ruler

A BOY just missed becoming ruler of Pudukkottai.

His father, the rajah, died and the government of India considered deeply the problem of succession. Finally Rajah Gopala Tondaiman was declared the new ruler because the boy was half English.

Among the wilderness of native states of India Pudukkottai seldom is heard of in the outside world. It is small, of less area in fact than Rhode Island, yet it has all the Oriental trappings of states many times its size. The rajah is entitled to an eleven-gun salute.

Promised Great Britain One Elephant Per Year

Pudukkottai is in southeastern India, within 10 degrees of latitude of the Equator. It is wholly inland, but its eastern boundary lies within 20 miles of Palk Strait, which separates Ceylon from the Indian mainland. In greatest extent the state is only 50 miles across in one direction and 40 in the other. Within its borders reside 427,000 people, mostly of the Hindu faith.

The country is an upland plain, much of it barren, and the remainder rather sparsely cultivated. The rainfall is only about 35 inches. Irrigation is necessary, so large areas are dotted with reservoirs and lined with canals.

The little state came into existence after the appointment in 1680 of a chief of a district by a neighboring rajah. In a short time the chief set himself up as a rajah in his own right, and the state has maintained a sort of independence ever since. Pudukkottai came into relations with the British first in 1752 when the rajah of that time helped English forces who were besieged by the French. Later the rajah helped avert native rebellions and as a reward asked for the cession by Great Britain of a fort just outside Pudukkottai's borders. The fort was granted in 1806 with a tribute requirement of "one elephant yearly." This tribute was never collected, however, and in 1836 was remitted.

British Adviser Guides the Rajah's Acts

Pudukkottai town, the capital of the state, is exceptionally clean, airy, and well built. There is a reason. In 1825, the ruling rajah, after absorbing some British ideas, decided that the dirty town of narrow, crooked streets was unworthy of its country. He demolished the town and built in its place a little city of regular streets with substantial houses. In the town of to-day are a number of fine public buildings, and just outside is the imposing palace.

The state has no railways, but its highways are good. The ruling body is a council consisting of the Rajah, his Diwan or prime minister, and a third councilor. An "assembly" of 30 members is appointed, but is little more than an auditing committee. All legislation is passed by the Council, but must be submitted to the Government of Madras for approval before it is promulgated. At the Council's shoulder, so to speak, stands a British agent, and all important action is taken only with his advice.

Bulletin No. 4, February 25, 1929.

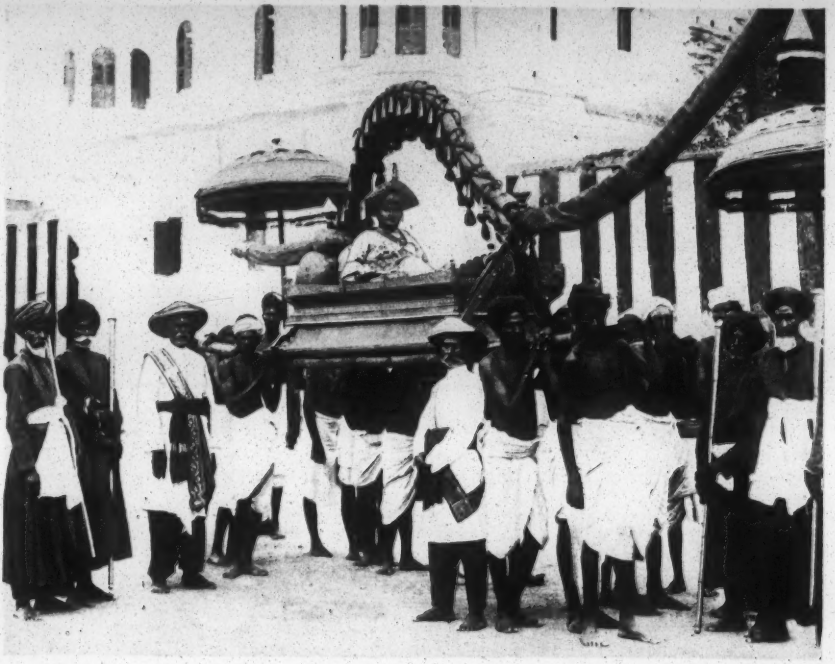
Winnipeg's climate is one of extremes, cold in winter and hot in summer, yet it is considered particularly healthy. Winter sports, especially ice boating and curling, attract visitors for miles around. In summer the city dweller has but a drive of sixty miles to reach Grand Beach on Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba's greatest resort. On hot summer days thousands of holiday makers crowd the sands at this popular watering place.

The "Sunshine City" Rivals Chicago in Wheat

Winnipeg boasts more sunny days in the year than any other large Canadian center, from which fact it enjoys the nickname of "Sunshine City." This name, like similar designations, must be taken with a grain of salt.

Nevertheless, Canada's magic city does lie in a district of sunny, black loam prairies, where wheat grows in unrivalled luxuriance during a short, hot northern summer. Likewise, the brisk clearness of her long, cold winters makes the spot well suited for outdoor winter life. One does not expect the "Sunshine City" of Canada to rival California. Winnipeg is not San Diego in climate. She comes much nearer making good her claim of rivaling Chicago as a wheat market.

Bulletin No. 3, February 25, 1929.



© *Wiele and Klein*

THE RAJAH OF AN INDIAN STATE GOES FOR A RIDE

This type of man-power vehicle is going out of fashion. The wealthy princes of India now have fleets of automobiles to replace their elephants and porters (See Bulletin No. 4).

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Matterhorn, Which Presides Over Switzerland Winter Sports

ALBERT, King of the Belgians, has been enjoying a holiday among the snowy peaks of Switzerland.

All kinds of winter sport await the visitor to the mountain Republic at this season; coasting, skiing, skating, climbing, hockey, and curling (a Scotch ice game).

The noble peaks of Switzerland look down on the merrymakers. Most famous of these peaks is the Matterhorn.

Mont Cervin, the French-speaking Swiss Call It

The Matterhorn (or Mont Cervin, as French-speaking Swiss call it) is slowly wasting away, a fact known for a long time, to the dismay of those mountain-lovers who look far into the future. But there is reassurance in the thought that it will live in its present form for a few more geologic minutes—that is, for several thousand calendar years.

The lower slopes of the Matterhorn are of softer rock than its upper portion; and while the higher section yields few fragments to the continual onslaught of weather and gravity, the supporting section is robbed of hundreds, and sometimes thousands of tons of material a day in fine, sunny, thawing weather. The mechanism of destruction is the release of "trigger" rocks by the sinking of moisture into crevices.

The moisture freezes and expands, forcing the rock fragments from their beds; and then thaws, a process which lets the fragments slip down the cliff or rock slope. The "trigger" rock dislodges other pieces of rock, some of them of considerable size, and these in turn may jar loose boulders. Soon the first flying rock has grown into a huge avalanche of stones, ice, and snow, which thunders downward until checked by the flatter slopes, built through the ages by similar slides. All other mountains, of course, are undergoing similar changes, although in most cases more slowly.

Now and then, when exceptional weather conditions favor it, an avalanche on the Matterhorn may grow to huge proportions with a momentum which sweeps its flying missiles over the lower slopes and out on to the valley floors used for pasturage.

Matterhorn Promotes Zermatt, the Town at Its Feet

The falling boulders of the Matterhorn have caused some fatalities and many narrow escapes. Each season some climbers must flatten themselves against the cliffs while small rocks whiz by with the speed and the rasping sound of rifle bullets, or great boulders bound from shoulder to shoulder, sometimes missing the heads of the mountaineers by only a foot or so. Many of the falling fragments are gathered into regular paths by funnellike depressions in the face of the mountain. One of the most valuable services of the guides is their knowledge of these dangerous *couloirs* and their additional knowledge of the weather conditions and times of day for safest crossing.

Most Matterhorn ascents are made from the Swiss side with Zermatt the starting point, though the climb from Breuïl, in Italy, is rated the greater feat. The Italian-Swiss boundary runs over the crest of the mountain. Zermatt grew from a village to a good sized town largely because of the rise in popularity of the Matterhorn and the consequent influx of those who wished to look upon it in its

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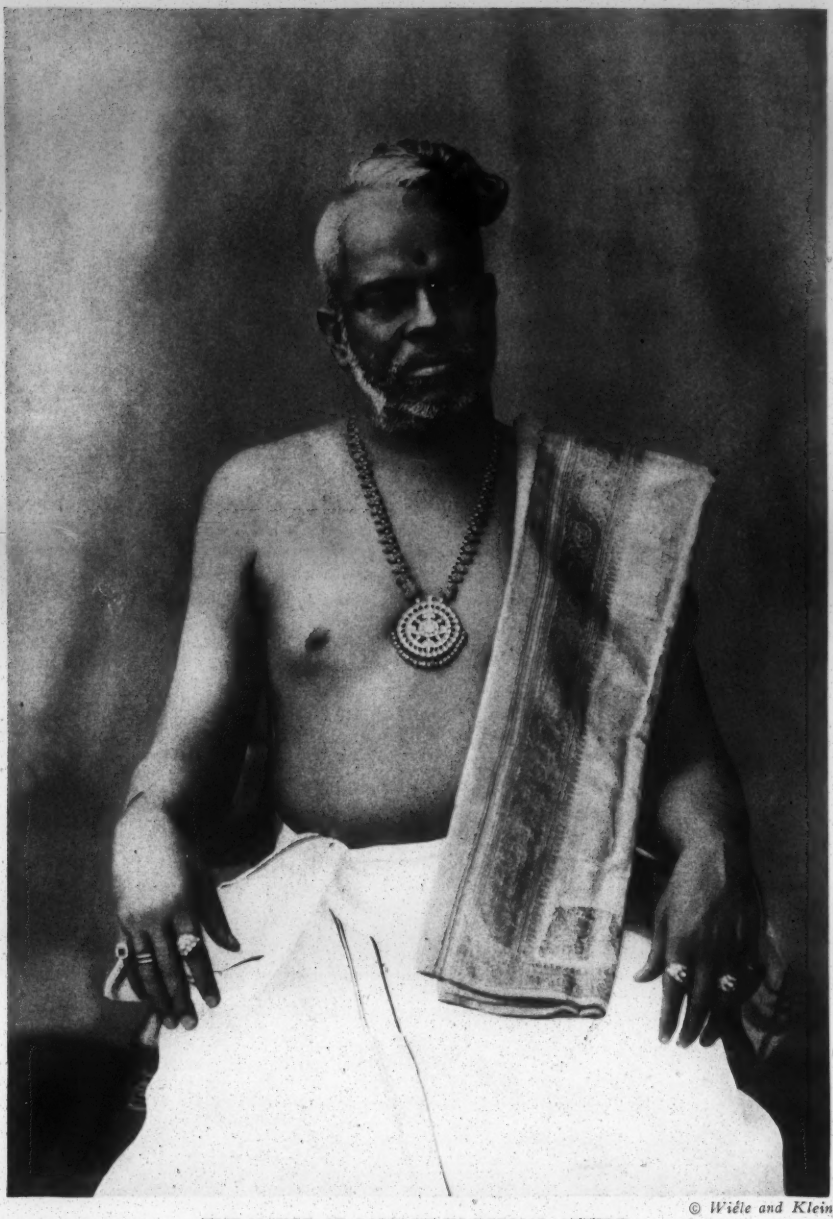

© *Wiéle and Klein*

THE MAYOR OF CALICUT IN FORMAL ATTIRE

The Hindu Mayor of the Indian port takes the title Zamorin. When Vasco da Gama reached India he was received by the Zamorin of Calicut who was bedecked with diamonds, pearls, rubies, and jewel-studded ornaments. From the name Calicut comes our term "calico."

various moods and those who wished to scale it. The town is also the center from which many less difficult climbs are made. On its one main street hotels are almost as numerous as shops. The latter are well stocked with mountaineering outfits. A low stone wall opposite one of the leading hotels is "Guides' Row." On it guides out of employment sit until patrons engage their services. Housing, outfitting and guiding climbers are Zermatt's three leading industries.

Loud Crash of Matterhorn Pinnacle Will Come Some Day

The Matterhorn is one of the most dangerous of the Alpine peaks to climb, and if weather conditions are not right, one of the most difficult. Long after many other famous heights of the Alps were scaled the Matterhorn remained unvanquished, and by 1850 it was rated unattainable. It was first climbed by a party of four Englishmen and three guides on July 14, 1865. It was a tragic attainment. On the way down three of the climbers and one guide, tied together, fell over a 4,000-foot precipice to their deaths. Only the breaking of the rope saved the lives of one climber and the two other guides.

Day by day in warm weather the Matterhorn continues to shower down a part of itself. Already the hard upper pyramid hangs over a bit in places where the softer rock below has wasted away. Some day—how many thousands of years hence it is useless to guess—the supporting rock will give way, geologists say, and the huge top, weighing millions of tons, will topple over with one of the most tremendous crashes ever heard by the ear of man.

Bulletin No. 5, February 25, 1929.

© G. R. Ballance

SKIING DE LUXE AT ST. MORITZ, SWITZERLAND

This Swiss resort is the center of many types of winter sports. The Cresta Run is said to be the most famous toboggan slide in the world. Contests in ice skating, hockey, curling, and ski jumping take place annually.